

FROM MURDER TO FRAUD.

THE CHEERFUL TASK OF THE ARKANSAS COMMITTEE.

ARMSTRONG'S ERUPTION IN THE COURT-ROOM—INTIMIDATED WITNESSES FROM PLUMMERVILLE ON THE STAND—TELLING OF THE DEATH OF CLAYTON.

Little Rock, Ark., May 6.—Through the intense excitement created temporarily by the scene in the court-room yesterday evening, has to some extent abated, there is no doubt that much had blood been engendered, and that after the committee has left Little Rock more serious outbreaks may occur. The three or four hundred men who were present at the trial of the late Governor Clayton, which would indicate that the whole scene was premeditated. Carroll Armstrong is Mr. Brock's attorney at Plummerville and Morrellton. He seems likewise to be the mouthpiece, guardian and protector of the Pates and the Bentleys and of the same ilk. Up to this time there has been keeping very wisely in the background. In fact, he has been employed only in the hearing before the committee as an authority upon merely local matters. He has taken no active part in the proceedings or in the examination of witnesses. Even his awful arraignment by Colonel W. H. H. Clayton the other day could not induce him to open his mouth. Judge McClure had up to last night nothing whatever to do with Mr. Armstrong personally. Even in their capacity as counsel they had not exchanged a single word. The sudden outbreak, therefore, on the part of Mr. Armstrong can be ascribed to one of two causes only. He was either under the influence of stimulants or he acted under the direction of the Plummerville and Morrellton hoodlums who he represents. That he did not attack Judge McClure on the impulse of the moment is quite clear from the fact that he remained several minutes in the room before he broke out in his violent and indecent tirade. The scene occurred at such a late hour last night that it was impracticable to send a full account of what Armstrong said by telegraph. His exact words are therefore reported here.

Mr. Chairman, I am seated at the top of his voice, and in the manner of a bawdy tragedian. Made against the people of Morrellton and Conway County by the mouthpiece of Powell Clayton. I desire to enter an appearance for the people of Conway County and defend them against those slanders.

"Note that Mr. Armstrong enters an appearance for Conway County," said Major Lacey smilingly to the stenographer.

"I understand this committee intends in a short time to adjourn, after having received the testimony here that would cast a cloud upon the people of Washington for the purpose of making their report," continued Mr. Armstrong.

"I think that is quite probable," said Major Lacey, still smiling good-humoredly.

"I insist," said Mr. Armstrong, "that this committee shall subpoena witnesses from the people of Conway County, from among the good people of Conway County, to refute the charges that have been made by that infamous and vile slanderer," pointing to Judge McClure.

At this reference, Judge McClure sprang forward and struck Mr. Armstrong in the face. Friends of both parties rushed to the breach, and the greatest excitement prevailed. Every member of the committee sprang up, and Chairman Lacey shouted: "Sit down! Sit down!" Mr. Breckinridge ran to the middle of the room and, mounting a chair, shouted: "This won't do. Stop it! Stop it!"

"Where is the sergeant-at-arms? Arrest him!" shouted some one. Mr. Armstrong was taken charge of by his friends, who stood between him and Judge McClure, and finally led him from the room. Affairs quieted down in a short while, and the investigation was resumed. It was evident, however, that considerable feeling had been aroused, and Judge McClure's friends deemed it advisable, in view of the large Plummerville contingent in town, to act as a body-guard when he went home for the night.

The general impression prevails that Mr. Armstrong is unwilling to go on the witness-stand and meet the charges, implied and otherwise, with which W. H. H. Clayton's testimony fully bristles, and for that reason he provided a scene which should for the present make people forget that he had the floor for a certain purpose. This morning, however, Mr. Armstrong felt that something was due to the committee. He therefore apologized publicly to its chairman, saying, in effect, that the language used by him last night was stronger than he had intended it to be.

The investigation went over a varied field to-day, halting for no very long time at any particular point. It examined witnesses for an hour or so with the view of proving up the vote in townships where ballot-boxes had been stuffed; and then would hear for another hour or so the statements of people who are supposed to know something about the theft of the Plummerville ballot-box; and then would wander off again into the examination of witnesses suspected of being able to throw some light on the assassination of J. M. Clayton. Thus, after having the night before witnessed a scene of Arkansas court manners, the members of the committee varied their experience to-day by flitting gaily from fraud to murder and back again from murder to fraud, to take, as it were, the bad taste out of their mouths. Among the witnesses were Messrs. McCreary and her daughter, Mrs. Hall, in whose house J. M. Clayton was murdered, and the two men, Womack and Allnut, in whose presence the unfortunate man met his fate. The two women are very fair samples of the hard-favored countrywomen, whose mental horizon is even more limited than that which includes the village in which they have spent the best part of their lives. They are probably sixty and forty-five years old, and yet are referred to in the sundry documents submitted by the defense to the committee as "orphans." They displayed a remarkably shrewd business sense when they demanded of Colonel W. H. H. Clayton compensation for the blood of his brother, which had been spilled over \$10 worth of carpet.

"I was injured \$30 worth," declared the mother, with gentle firmness on the stand to-day, while her daughter took a like view of the matter, only adding by way of explanation, "It was none of our fault now." Both women were suspiciously cautious in giving their testimony, though they asserted repeatedly, especially the mother, that they were willing to tell the truth. It is more than likely that like other people living in Plummerville they are intimidated and under a constant fear from hoodlums who infect that town and therefore cannot be got to tell what they know. While remembering, for instance, immaterial things with wonderful accuracy, they generally "disremember" when matters of importance are reached. But, in a community where men are afraid of being taken by the throat, it is not surprising that they are so.

Neither D. H. Womack nor W. D. Allnut was able to add much that is new in the tale of the murder of Clayton. Womack is a travelling salesman, who happened to be stopping at the home of the "orphans" on the night when Clayton was murdered. He was standing at the window, when the shot was fired, and he saw the light of the flames in the fireplace he could partly see where Clayton had fallen, and he could hear in the darkness the struggle of the blood as it rushed from the fatal wound. He was unable to tell what had happened. They thought at first the lamp

had exploded and wounded Clayton, but on fetching a light, they discovered their mistake. The "orphans" apparently were not greatly moved at the horror of the scene which presented itself to their eyes, neither were the Boarders. Clayton had fallen backward in the act of sitting down, carrying the chair with him, his legs still resting on the edge of the seat, while his head had struck the ground.

Mr. Allnut was sent for. He took the watch of the dead man from his pocket and found it still going, pointed to 10 minutes past 8 o'clock. This fixed the time of the murder, which is an extremely important point, at about 5 minutes to 8, a statement which is corroborated by Allnut.

All the other Plummerville witnesses declare that it was about 9 o'clock when the shot was fired. The difference in time is clearly a mistake, and it is not likely that those who were present at the murder, in order to enable certain suspects to account for their absence from their homes between 8 and 9 o'clock. The assassin, for instance, could have been seen from Morrellton to Plummerville, committed the murder and returned to Morrellton inside of an hour and a half, and by showing himself in a public place, not only would he have been seen, but would have been as long as the confederates swear to having heard the shot fired in Plummerville at the same hour. Another interested party stated by Allnut disposed of part of the Sater life. He swore that Captain Matthews, who Sater had been killed by Hooper, met his death long after Hooper had gone to California. Allnut knew both men.

affected; therefore workmen's interests will not be affected. The radicals, animated by patriotic zeal, are not willing to grant all that is required to strengthen the country's defensive forces. The "Taggart" also approves the Emperor's references to the "Joachim" series. The speech will be received with satisfaction everywhere. The paper contains in the opinion that, while the hours of labor of women and children may be reduced, record must be paid to Germany industry, especially in view of foreign competition. It is pleased with the Emperor's assurance that the country's foreign relations are good, and refers to his high commendation of the socialist law, which, according to the paper, is a simple and clear statement of the Emperor's policy and his determination to do nothing to other interests. The paper is gratified that the Emperor continues to aim at the establishment of a permanent peace, and that his personal security of the country shall be promoted by his cooperation.

REPORT ON THE PANAMA CANAL.

Paris, May 6.—The report of the special commission sent out by M. Dupuy, the liquidator of the Panama Canal Company, to investigate the condition of the canal, estimates that it would cost 435,000,000 francs to complete the canal on the lock system. To this should be added 20 per cent for unforeseen expenses, and 20 per cent for the expenses of management for the first three years, and the total cost of the canal would be 534,000,000 francs. The report further estimates that the canal would be completed in 1895, and that the material of the old canal would be sold for 10,000,000 francs. The report further estimates that the canal would be completed in 1895, and that the material of the old canal would be sold for 10,000,000 francs.

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